

**Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan  
Work Plan 12/1/97-10/1/98 (Draft)**

**Need**

This work plan and budget estimate covers necessary refinements, corrections and improvements to the ERPP which are needed prior to certification of the CALFED Programmatic EIR/EIS. The refinements and improvements are in response to recommendations of the ERPP Scientific Review Panel as validated and prioritized by the BDAC Ecosystem Restoration Work Group and a stakeholder-agency steering committee. Additional recommendations for refinement and corrections have come from the over 100 comment letters received to date.

The BDAC Ecosystem Restoration Work Group and stakeholders strongly recommend that we improve the scientific framework of the document and simplify the presentation of the ERPP for the layperson.

**Need By February 1, 1997**

**Task 1      Review and respond to comment letters.**

Make appropriate changes to the ERPP. Estimated time required is 45 days. Target date for completion is February 1, 1998.

**Task 2      Prepare a clearly articulated methodology of an ERPP strategic plan by February, 1998.**

The Work Group recommended that CALFED prepare an easily understood strategic plan of the ERPP which clearly articulates the vision and goals and details the implementation of the ERPP. The strategic plan will include conceptual ecological models, clarified ERPP goals and objectives, a description of where restoration and rehabilitation will occur and an implementation and funding timeline. The strategic plan will be incorporated into ERPP Volume III.

It is essential to convey this methodology in as much detail as possible for the release of the draft PEIR/S. The methodology will provide examples including the following: conceptual model for American River Ecological Zone; restatement/revision of goals for American River Zone or other Zone; description of where restoration and rehabilitation will occur in American River Zone or other Zone; a timeline for major proposed actions for an Ecological Zone; and a financial budget for an Ecological Zone. Input on this task will come through an agency-stakeholder steering committee. Target date for completion is February 1, 1998.

**Task 3**      Revise first draft of conceptual models.

The conceptual models prepared by CALFED staff and the Indicator Team will be refined by the USGS. The conceptual models will be included in the draft PEIR/S. Target date for completion is February 1, 1998.

**Need by June 1, 1997**

**Task 4**      Continue development of conceptual models of the ecosystem. Recruit specialists and conduct workshops to refine the models.

This task addresses the most strongly held recommendation of the Scientific Review Panel, Work Group and stakeholders. It is generally agreed that this task must be completed by the final PEIR/S. The Work Group and stakeholders strongly suggest that we convene a conceptual modeling team and host technical workshops to refine the models. The ERPP staff effort should be augmented by modeling specialists.

The USGS is interested in developing the conceptual models and are preparing a proposal for submission by the first of the year. Their work should be augmented by some independent scientific review. The USGS work should be reviewed in three workshops to discuss the three classes of conceptual models. Each workshop would be two days, facilitated, and include invited scientists from outside of our system. The target completion date is June 1, 1998.

**Task 5**      Complete strategic plan for the ERPP.

A strategic planning expert should be hired to help complete the strategic plan for the ERPP. The strategic plan will include the conceptual models refined by the modeling team and the workshops, revised ERPP goals and targets based on the conceptual model results, detailed implementation budgets and timelines and other issues relevant to the adaptive management process. Input on this task will come through an agency-stakeholder steering committee. The target completion date is June 1, 1998.

**Task 6**      Establish an ERPP Science Program.

The Scientific Review Panel recommended that we integrate non-agency science into the program as soon as possible. We propose that CALFED create a three-tiered science program. The first tier would include local experts from agencies, the consulting community and academia convened on an as-needed basis to refine the ERPP, review monitoring data and analysis and to play a major role in adaptive management. Examples of this level of expertise include a strategic planner, a landscape ecologist or conservation biologist and the USGS Tiger Team. This should be an ongoing effort.

The second tier would be at a peer review level. This would be done by a standing scientific review board. The board would be comprised of local, semi-independent experts such as the IEP

Board and independent experts like the Scientific Review Panel. Membership would change slightly on a regular basis in order to keep the board fresh. CALFED and the stakeholder-agency steering committee should recruit prominent national experts to serve on the board by June 1, 1998. The Board would review monitoring and research findings, provide advice for adaptive management and would support special topic scientific workshops. This would be an ongoing effort. Proposed issue-specific workshops include review of indicators and development of testable hypotheses. A workshop on tidal freshwater wetlands is proposed for May, 1998. This workshop would be sponsored by CALFED, UCD The Nature Conservancy and others. It is intended to be a highly technical, three-day workshop.

The third tier is a panel of wholly independent experts like the Scientific Review Panel. It would meet annually to review the progress of the ERPP efforts. This panel is not anticipated to be convened until 1999.